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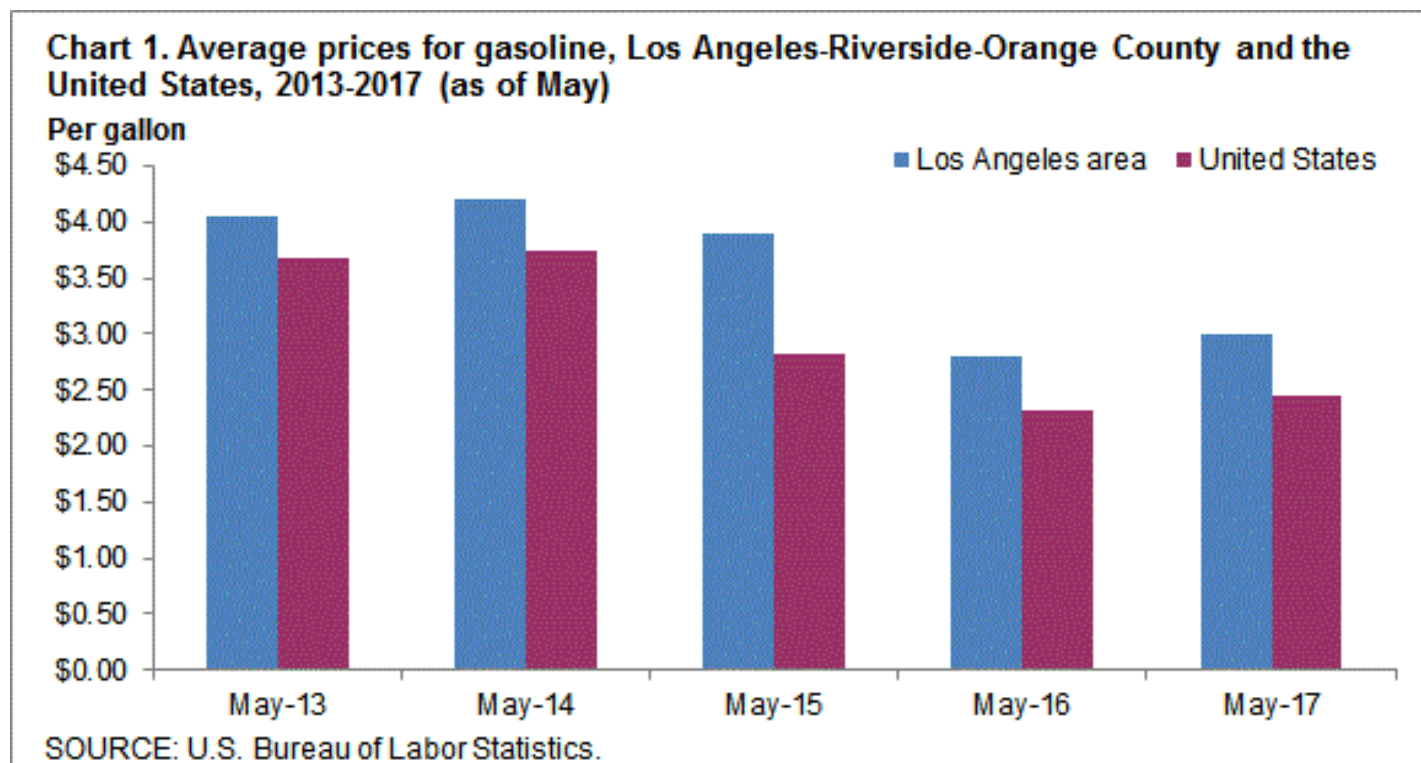
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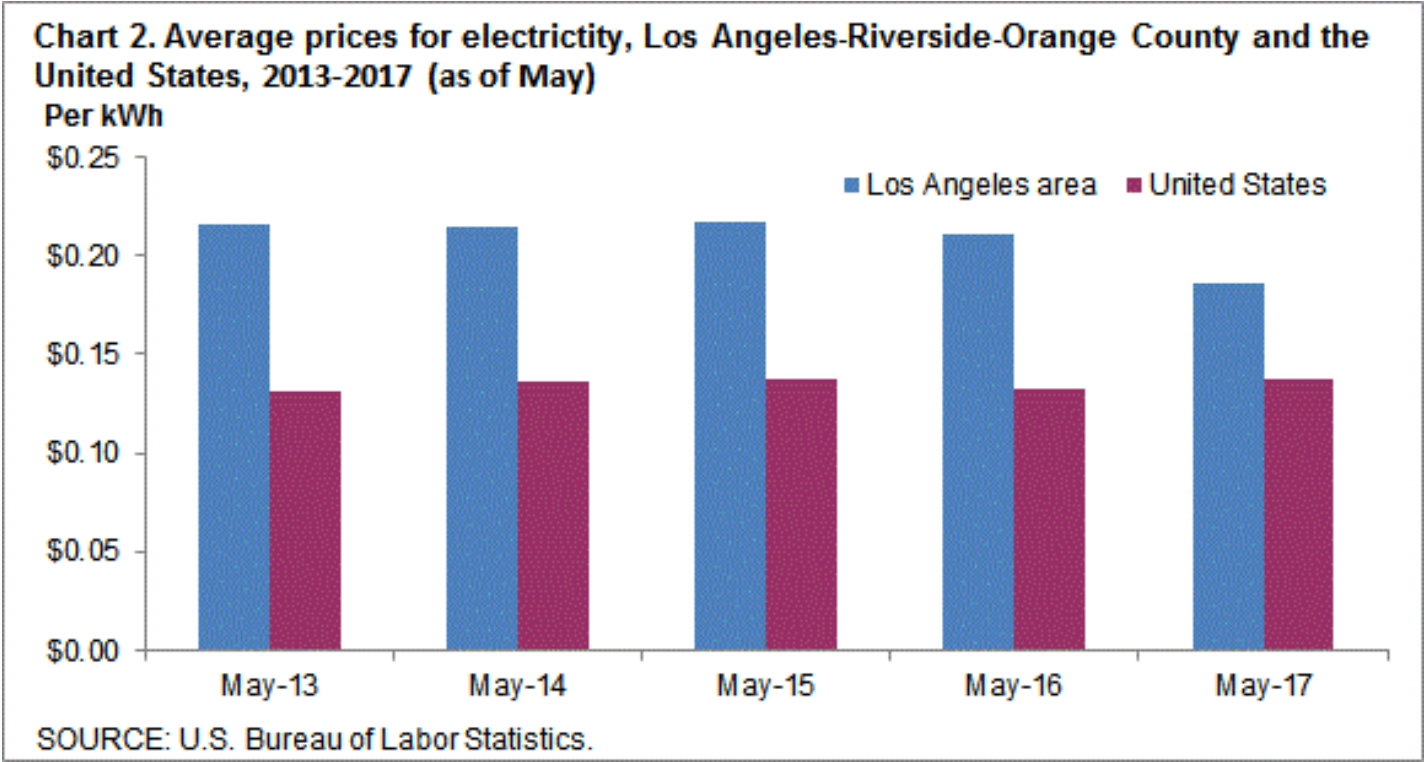
Average Energy Prices, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County – May 2017

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.997 a gallon in the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County area in May 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that area gasoline prices were 20.0 cents more than last May when they averaged \$2.797 per gallon. Los Angeles area households paid an average of 18.6 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in May 2017, less than the 21.1 cents per kWh paid in May 2016. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.344 per therm in May was more than the \$1.239 per therm spent last year. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

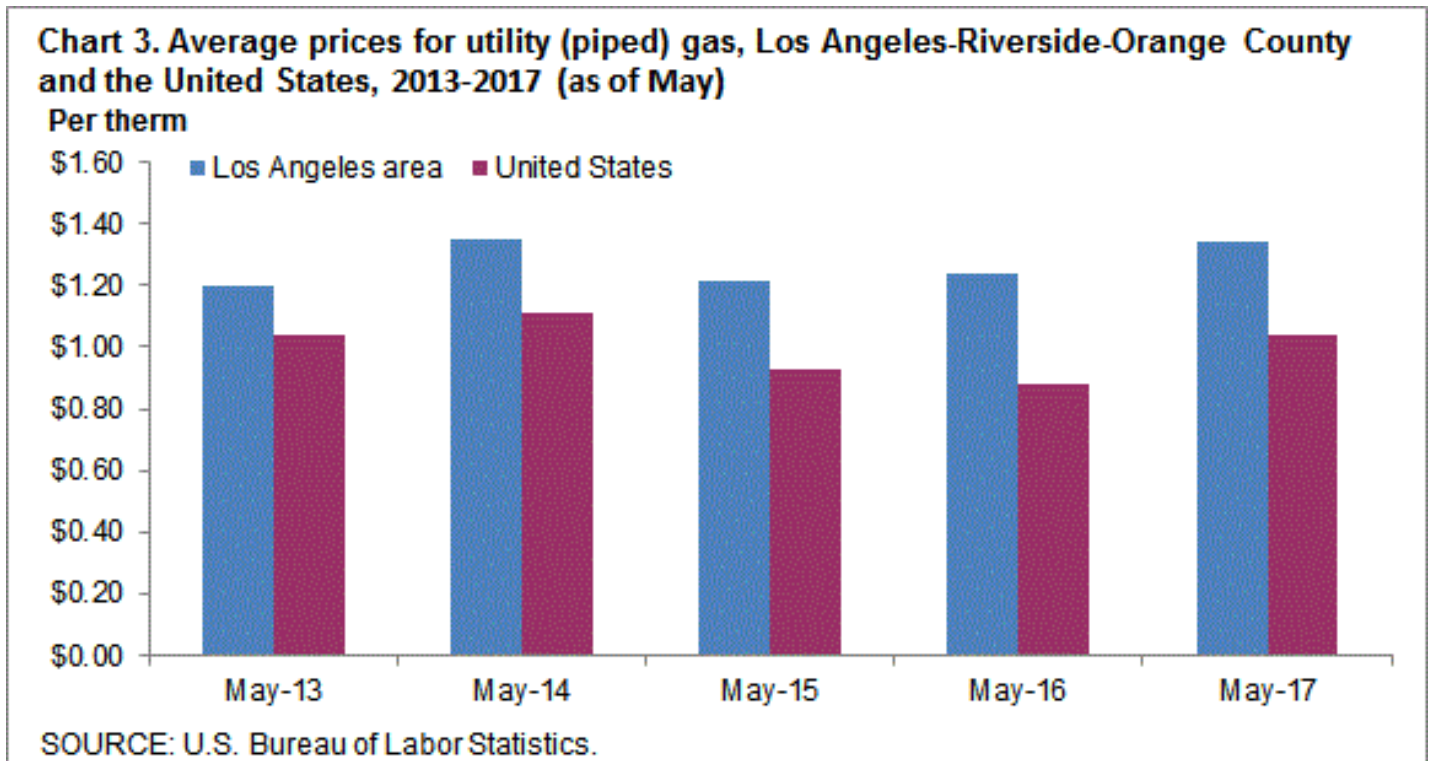
At \$2.997 a gallon, Los Angeles area consumers paid 22.4 percent more than the \$2.448 national average in May 2017. A year earlier, consumers in the Los Angeles area paid 20.4 percent more than the national average for a gallon of gasoline. The local price of a gallon of gasoline has ranged from 10.3 to 37.6 percent above the national average in the month of May during the past five years. (See [chart 1.](#))



The 18.6 cents per kWh Los Angeles households paid for electricity in May 2017 was 35.8 percent more than the nationwide average of 13.7 cents per kWh. Last May, electricity costs were 58.6 percent higher in Los Angeles compared to the nation. In the past five years, prices paid by Los Angeles area consumers for electricity exceeded the U.S. average by 35.8 percent or more in the month of May. (See [chart 2.](#))



Prices paid by Los Angeles area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were \$1.344 per therm, or 29.7 percent more compared to the national average in May 2017 (\$1.036 per therm). A year earlier, area consumers paid 41.3 percent more per therm for natural gas compared to the nation. In the Los Angeles area over the past five years, the per therm cost for natural gas in May has varied between 15.8 and 41.3 percent above the U.S. average. (See [chart 3.](#))



The Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, Calif. metropolitan area consists of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura Counties in California.

Technical Note

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, the 3 population size classes, 10 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 14 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm, are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (pipel) gas, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County and the United States, May 2016-May 2017, not seasonally adjusted

	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (pipel) gas per therm	
	Los Angeles area	United States	Los Angeles area	United States	Los Angeles area	United States
2016						
May.....	2.797	2.324	0.211	0.133	1.239	0.877
June.....	2.870	2.422	0.210	0.138	1.244	0.891
July.....	2.835	2.287	0.210	0.139	1.333	0.931
August.....	2.634	2.218	0.210	0.139	1.381	0.943
September.....	2.729	2.269	0.210	0.139	1.391	0.954
October.....	2.773	2.304	0.222	0.134	1.393	0.961
November.....	2.772	2.246	0.190	0.131	1.208	0.970
December.....	2.680	2.289	0.190	0.133	1.242	0.972
2017						
January.....	2.802	2.409	0.184	0.134	1.216	1.000
February.....	2.925	2.360	0.184	0.135	1.182	1.003
March.....	3.011	2.386	0.184	0.134	1.156	0.989
April.....	3.003	2.479	0.186	0.135	1.150	1.000
May.....	2.997	2.448	0.186	0.137	1.344	1.036